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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1101st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

26 May 2016

In response to the report by the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, on past, current and possible future activities of OSCE field operations to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretary General for his report in response to MC.DOC/4/15. The report describes the work over the past years by the OSCE field missions to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

The work of the field missions described in the report is based on a multidimensional approach, particularly the first and third dimensions. The strategy is fully in line with the OSCE's approach, although it is limited on occasion on account of political and economic constraints faced by the field missions.

The report also mentions the desire to avoid duplication of initiatives by including them in better designed and developed processes, to which the Secretariat (Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) and Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU)) could offer its assistance and experience. It also suggests that it would be useful for the field missions to be involved in more regional frameworks so as to respond more effectively to the requirements for co-ordination necessary to prevent and counter this transnational threat. The support of the centre in Dushanbe would be a useful means in this regard of working towards a unified regional training approach.

We also recall that we have been considering how to deal with this issue for more than ten years, following the adoption in 2005 of an adapted strategy, revised in 2008 and 2014. Co-ordination of all actors, including those at the local level, is one of our priorities within the Radicalisation Awareness Network, which includes over 700 organizations from the 28 Member States.

In the spirit of sharing information and co-ordinating activities, we fully support the efforts undertaken with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, particularly the Mediterranean Contact Group, to identify and conduct activities together with our partners to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization.

We should like to see this report become part of a more comprehensive approach by the OSCE that would include voluntary reports by participating States to the Security Committee on the adaptation of their relevant legislation and specific actions by field missions, taking account of and benefiting from the discussion at the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference to be held in Berlin next week.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.